

Is SCAS a “No Kill” Shelter?

SCAS does not euthanize due to space or length of stay. We do not euthanize what our team determines are adoptable animals.

We will euthanize when an animal requires medical treatment that goes beyond our ability to humanely provide, or we cannot otherwise relieve its suffering. Euthanasia may also be elected if an animal has a condition that puts other shelter animals or workers at risk.

We will also choose humane euthanasia when an animal has negative behaviors, such as unmanageable or unpredictable aggression towards people that goes beyond our ability to correct, especially if that behavior presents a safety concern to a potential adopter or to the community. We have a multi-step process involved in this decision. A behaviorist and/or trainers are consulted, the dog is made a priority for a group of specially trained volunteers and staff, a behavior modification program is implemented, and off site “breaks” from the shelter environment are provided.

We feel strongly that it is NOT responsible to place a potentially dangerous animal in the community. While we understand people believe there is a “perfect home” out there for every dog, we ask you to consider that perfect home may be next door to a family with young children or a family dog that is unaware that some dogs are extremely aggressive toward other animals.

We are open with staff and volunteers about our decisions on this matter. We never make any attempts to hide the facts. When this difficult decision is made, we mourn their loss and take the lessons they teach us forward to help us understand the next animal.